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Possible Product Shortage of Eskalith CR 450 mg.

PR Newswire, Dec 3, 1999

SUNNYVALE, Calif., Dec. 3 /PRNewswire/ -- Scios Inc. (Nasdaq: SCIO) today announced a possible temporary product shortage of Eskalith CR (lithium carbonate) Controlled Release Tablets(R) 450 mg, one of five psychiatric products developed and manufactured by SmithKline Beecham that are now sold by Scios. SmithKline Beecham indicated to Scios that it is in discussions with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to address issues raised by FDA following SmithKline Beecham's change in the site of manufacture of Eskalith CR(R) 450 mg.

No shortage is expected for Eskalith (lithium carbonate) immediate release capsules.

Richard B. Brewer, Scios' President and Chief Executive Officer, noted that "SmithKline Beecham is working to avoid a product outage on Eskalith CR(R) 450 mg. However, if a product shortage materializes, the length of any product out-of-stock situation will determine the financial impact to Scios. Based on current information, we estimate a temporary shortage would result in a \$2 million reduction in the operating profit of our Psychiatric Sales and Marketing Division in fiscal 2000. We expect to have greater clarity on the situation from SmithKline Beecham in the next month."

SmithKline Beecham is responsible for all manufacturing and regulatory issues associated with Eskalith CR(R) 450 mg and the four other SB psychiatric products that Scios sells. Discussions with the FDA to resolve these issues are ongoing.

Scios Inc.

Scios is a biopharmaceutical company engaged in the discovery, development, and commercialization of novel human therapeutics. Scios has commercial or research and development relationships with Chiron Corporation, The DuPont Pharmaceuticals Company, Eli Lilly and Company, GenVec Inc., Kaken Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., and Novo Nordisk A/S of Denmark. Scios' Psychiatric Sales and Marketing Division successfully markets seven psychiatric products, including co-promotion arrangements with Janssen Pharmaceutica's Risperdal(R) (risperidone) and SmithKline Beecham's Paxil(R) (paroxetine hydrochloride). Additional information on Scios is available at its web site located at www.sciosinc.com and in the Company's various filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The statements in this press release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties, and may include references to the extent of any product outage of Eskalith(R) (lithium carbonate) Controlled Release Tablets CR 450mg, and the impact of any outage on the financial results of Scios, as well as other risks detailed from time to time in the reports filed by Scios with the SEC, including the Company's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1998 and subsequent reports on Form 10-Q.

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